

Walker, Martin. *The Cold War*, Henry Holt and Company, New York, 1993. An overview of Cold War history.

Ramirez, Constance Werner. "A Summary History of the Army's Preservation Program," *CRM* Vol. 20, No.13, 1997.

Cold War International History Project Bulletin
Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, 1000 Jefferson Drive, S.W.
Washington, DC, 20560. With the opening of the Russian archives, a useful source for historians and scholars on numerous issues connected with the Cold War.

Note: Good references for historians include servicewide phone books for compiling histories of the various armed forces agencies.

Specific

Lonnquest, John C. and David F. Winkler. *To Defend and Deter The Legacy of the United States Cold War Missile Program*. USACERL Special Report 97/01 November 1996. A study sponsored by the Department of Defense Legacy Resource Management Program Cold War Project: The definitive study on the impact of long-range and air defense missiles on the American landscape. Cultural resource managers evaluating specific resources will find the bibliography a useful guide.

Stapp, Darby C. "Documenting a Cold War Nuclear Reactor, Attempting Innovation Balancing Historic Preservation Needs with the Operation of Highly Technical or

Scientific Facilities," *CRM* Vol 20, No.13, Stapp's article deals with the documentation of the Hanford N-Reactor Complex, and the cooperation and planning between the Department of Energy and the Washington State Historic Preservation Office. For an approach dealing with technical and scientific matters, it is a good source.

Winkler, David F. *Searching the Skies: The Legacy of the United States Cold War Defense Radar Program*, prepared for United States Air Force Combat Command. June 1997. Excellent study of the impact that the construction of radar stations and command facilities had on the American landscape, exploring patterns, themes, and trends that created, influenced, and formed the backdrop to the Cold War defense radar program.

Useful Web Sites

www.army.mil/cmh-pg

www.history.navy.mil/

www.au.af.mil/au/afhra/hisstud.htm

www.airforcehistory.hq.af.mil

www.cwihp.si.edu/default.htm

www.h-net.msu.edu/~war

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Jeane Wharton

Interpreting the Cold War

"When I was growing up [in Milbank], we would always count the missile silos on the way to the Black Hills."

Dr. Steven Bucklin, USD

Images of the Cold War—etched in our national memory—are images of the missile silos, bomb shelters and "duck and cover drills" that once impacted daily American life. The Minuteman Missile was one of the country's most important Cold War weapons, and many historic preservationists are looking to provide future generations with a physical reminder of that time.

Minuteman Background

More than 1,000 Minuteman ICBM (intercontinental ballistic missile) sites were deployed in hardened underground silos across the nation's heartland by 1967. The Minuteman was an inconspicuous, silent sentinel on the nation's landscape.

For almost 30 years, Minuteman missiles served as part of the nuclear triad of land-based ICBM's, submarine-launched missiles, and manned bombers poised to deliver a nuclear warhead to a Soviet target within a half hour. Then, in 1991, with the passage of the Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (START), the Air Force began deactivating the Minuteman force.

The operational center of the Minuteman missile system was the underground Launch Control Center (LCC). During their round-the-clock duty, the missile crews monitored missiles and conducted tests in the LCC.



Among the deactivated sites were 15 launch control facilities and 150 missile silos of the 44th Missile Wing at Ellsworth Air Force Base in South Dakota.

Missiles and the Badlands

Soon after the deactivation began, the National Park Service and the Air Force recognized that Ellsworth's Minuteman facilities might be excellent candidates for long-term preservation. The Ellsworth sites were among the oldest, and they are the least-altered from the original configuration

I was fortunate to be included in a discussion and short tour of two of the sites near Badlands National Park in southwestern South Dakota. As we viewed the crew areas, I noted that much of the technology dated back to the Cuban Missile Crisis era. It almost looked as though the crew had gone to dinner and would return shortly.

Other participants included University of South Dakota professors Dr. Steven Bucklin and Dr. Robert Hilderbrand, who are interested in conducting an oral history project; Badlands National Park Superintendent William Supernaugh; Badlands Chief of Education/Cultural Resources Marianne Mills; State Historic Preservation Office Staff Archaeologist Bruce Penner; SHPO Architectural Historian Steve Rogers and Tim Pavek, Civilian Engineer for the U.S. Air Force at Ellsworth Air Force Base.

The Minuteman story must be told, the group agreed. It is an important story, and not just of missile silos. It's the story of the local rancher who helped mine (during a fierce winter

blizzard) the 80-foot-deep holes that would become the missile silos. It's a story of the landowner who told the deactivation crews they wouldn't have to blow up her missile site—she wouldn't tell anyone, since we might need it again some day. The sites should be preserved for all Americans as a reminder of this significant period in our history.

Management Bill to be Re-Introduced

In 1998, legislation was introduced in the U. S. Senate that would allow the National Park Service, in conjunction with the U. S. Air Force to acquire, preserve and interpret the Delta One Launch Control Facility and Delta Nine Launch Facility as a national historic site. The site would commemorate the history and significance of the Cold War, the Minuteman missile system, and the Arms Race.

Supporters for the legislation included South Dakota Senators Tim Johnson and Tom Daschle. Both made statements before the Subcommittee on National Parks, Historic Preservation, and Recreation Subcommittee of the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources in July. Both senators stated that they looked forward to working on an effort to "preserve part of the Minuteman II missile system and an important chapter of our nation's history."

The legislation passed the Senate on March 25, 1999, and was sent to the House on April 12, 1999, for further action.

Jeanne Wharton is Historic South Dakota Executive Director.

Photos courtesy Tim Pavek, U.S. Air Force.

Like the crews who painted "nose art" on military aircraft during World War II, the Cold War's missileers often decorated the blast doors of underground LCCs.

